CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please replace the pending claims with the following:

1. (Currently amended) A device for transporting particles containing a magnetic material in a selected direction, the device comprising:

- a support member having a support surface for supporting the particles, the support surface extending in the selected direction;
- a separator magnet arranged to generate a magnetic field for retaining the particles on the support surface whereby the magnetic field on the support surface is arranged to have a high-field band, a low-field band, and a magnetic field gradient in a gradient zone between said high- and low-field bands whereby the magnetic field strength in the high-field band is higher than that in the low-field band;
- means for advancing the high- and low-field bands relative to the support surface in a direction having a component in the direction of the magnetic field gradient on the support surface, whereby the high-field band is followed by the low-field band;

wherein ~~whereby along said high-field band~~ at least a first magnetic pole and a second magnetic pole of opposite polarity are arranged such that a first magnetic path on the support surface along said high-field band from the first magnetic pole to the second magnetic pole is shorter than a second magnetic path on the support surface crossing the gradient zone from the first magnetic pole to any other nearest magnetic pole of opposite polarity.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the separator magnet is a composite magnet comprising a plurality of magnetic building blocks stacked together in a selected stacking direction.

3. (Previously presented) The device of claim 2, wherein the magnetic building blocks each have a projected North-South axis formed by a component of an internal magnetic field along a plane perpendicular to the selected stacking direction.

4. (Previously presented) The device of claim 3, wherein the projected North-South axes of the stacked magnetic building blocks intersect the high-field band.

5. (Original) The device of claim 4, wherein the first magnetic pole and the second magnetic pole are each formed by groups of individual poles of one or more of the stacked magnetic building blocks.

6. (Original) The device of claim 4, wherein the first and/or the second magnetic pole is/are formed by a plurality of stacked magnetic building blocks.

7. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said means for advancing the bands relative to the support surface in the direction having the component in the direction of the magnetic field gradient on the support surface, is provided in the form of drive means for rotating the separator magnet around an axis parallel to the selected stacking direction relative to the support surface.

8. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the gradient zone is helically arranged around the separator magnet.

9. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the low-field band corresponds to a recess provided in the outer surface of the separator magnet.

10. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the magnetic field in the gradient zone generally increases on a trajectory on the support surface in the selected direction of transport.

11. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the support surface extends around the magnet leaving distance between the support surface and the outer surface of the separator magnet, whereby said distance in a first location on the support surface is smaller than said distance in a second location on the support surface, the first location being downstream in the selected direction with respect to the second location.

12. (Original) The device of claim 11, wherein the support surface is arranged in a tapered fashion around the separator magnet.

13. (Previously presented) A tool for excavating an object, the tool comprising a jetting system arranged to impinge the object to be excavated with a jetted stream of a fluid mixed with abrasive particles comprising a magnetic material, the jetting system being provided with at least an abrasive particle inlet allowing entrance of abrasive particles into the jetting system, the tool further comprising a recirculation system arranged to recirculate at least some of the abrasive particles, from a return stream of the fluid mixed with the abrasive particles downstream impingement of the jetted stream with the object back to the jetting system, the recirculation system comprising a device for transporting particles containing a magnetic material in a selected direction, the device comprising:

- a support member having a support surface for supporting the particles which is exposed to said return stream for transporting the abrasive particles from the return stream to the inlet, the support surface extending in the selected direction;
- a separator magnet arranged to generate a magnetic field for retaining the particles on the support surface whereby the magnetic field on the support surface is arranged to have a high-field band, a low-field band, and a magnetic field gradient in a gradient zone between said high- and low-field bands whereby the magnetic field strength in the high-field band is higher than that in the low-field band;
- means for advancing the high- and low-field bands relative to the support surface in a direction having a component in the direction of the magnetic field gradient on the support surface, whereby the high-field band is followed by the low-field band;

whereby along said high-field band at least a first magnetic pole and a second magnetic pole of opposite polarity are arranged such that a first magnetic path on the support surface from the first magnetic pole to the second magnetic pole is shorter than a second magnetic path on the support surface crossing the gradient zone from the first magnetic pole to any other nearest magnetic pole of opposite polarity.

14. (Original) The tool of claim 13, wherein the support surface is provided with a ridge on the support surface guiding the abrasive particles to the second inlet.

15. (Previously presented) The tool of claim 13, wherein the jetting system is fluidly connected to a bypass conduit arranged inside the ridge for supplying the jetting system with the fluid.